

Limestone District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee
SEAC Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Limestone District School Board Education Centre
220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston

6:00 pm

Indigenous Acknowledgement:

"The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land."

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- 4. Business Arising From the Minutes**
 - Goal Setting - Chair McGregor
- 5. Community Organization Presentation: Lennox and Addington Resources for Children-Sandy Henderson-Todd**
- 6. Educational Services Update-After Schools Skills Development Program (ASSDP)-Melissa Boyd-Rupa, Coordinator of the ASSDP**
- 7. Correspondence (Attached)**
- 8. Association Updates (Attached)**
- 9. Other Business**
 - i) Ministry Updates-Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

- ii) Tentative Tri-Board SEAC date: Thursday, May 28, 2020, 5 p.m. at Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

10. Next Meeting Date

March 25, 2020 at 6 p.m.

11. Adjournment



Bluewater District School Board

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www.bwdsb.on.ca

November 25, 2019

Sent by email: Minister.EDU@ontario.ca

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

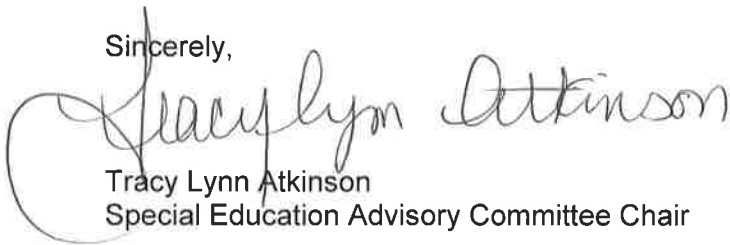
Dear Minister Lecce:

Bluewater District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) would like to acknowledge and support the letter from the Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence dated September 23, 2019. We share the concerns around the proposal for secondary students taking a minimum of four mandatory e-learning credits and the impact this might have on students with special education needs.

While we understand the number of courses has now been reduced to two our concerns still remain. It is not currently clear what the e-Learning initiative will include, how it will be implemented and whether it will be readily accessible to all students who live in a rural geographic area such as ours who may be able to access internet at school, but not from home. We also need to have a clear understanding as to what the criteria are for exemption and the human resources and technology supports that will be provided to students with special education needs. We would appreciate further information regarding the plan to provide online learning to our students.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tracy Lynn Atkinson
Special Education Advisory Committee Chair

c.c. SEAC Chairs

December 11, 2019

Honorable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Flr, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON
M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee we are writing in agreement with concerns expressed in letters from the SEACs of both the Durham District School Board, dated June 3, 2019, and the Greater Essex County District School Board, dated July 5, 2019. Specifically we urge you to reconsider the announced increase to the average class size and the mandatory online courses. We echo the concern for the potential negative outcomes discussed in these letters such as decreased opportunity to make connections with caring adults and reduced availability of courses.

Increases to average class sizes will decrease the availability of compulsory courses and electives that many of our students require to develop the practical skills that provide them with a sense of purpose and vocation later in life. An increase in average class size will only exacerbate the issue in smaller schools that are already challenged with decreased course selection. Also, it is estimated that 10% to 20% of Canadian youth are affected by mental illness or disorders (CMHA, 2019). As such, we are extremely concerned with the decrease in educators, decreasing the number of "caring adults" available to make connections with students, that an increase in class size would create.

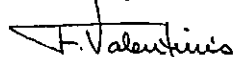
In addition, the introduction of mandatory online courses is not a realistic expectation for many students with identified learning exceptionalities. Many individuals with learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and other learning differences require additional support from their educators. The online format is simply not suitable for everyone. Making it compulsory does not recognize the individual needs of students.

It is our sincere hope that the Ministry of Education take the needs of our most vulnerable, complex and at-risk students into consideration and review and implement the suggestions outlined by the SEAC of the Durham District School Board, specifically:

1. Provide e-learning opportunities to students across the Province as an option, but not make it mandatory for all students.
2. Encourage professional learning for staff, and e-learning exposure for students in Learning Strategies courses to allow for specific opportunities to explore the D2L platform and gain direct experiences with digital learning with the support of their special education teachers. This will allow students to self-assess their confidence and suitability to this learning delivery method.
3. Allow students all access to all pathways (community living, workplace, college, university) on line, should they wish, including during alternative school times, to encourage students to explore other opportunities (e.g. summer courses).
4. Slow down changes to class size and establish clear guidelines to measure and monitor the impact on students, particularly those with special needs.
5. Provide further transparency about students' pathways and monitor how changes are impacting pathways, including students earning a Certificate of Achievement and Certificate of Accomplishment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fulvio Valentinis
Chairperson
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board



Joanna Zeiter, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee Chair
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

cc: Terry Lyons, Director of Education WECDSB
MPP Windsor and Essex County
WECDSB Board Trustees
WECDSB SEAC Members
Provincial DSB SEAC Chairs

Organization Updates

Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston

We have started planning the annual Parents Forum Speak Up for Ability. The forum will be held on Saturday, 30 May 2020. This year's theme will be the Right to Read. The forum will be organized for up to 100 parents, teachers and community service providers who work together to ensure the best learning opportunities for students with learning disabilities and ADHD. The objectives of this forum are to help parents:

1. Understand human rights of children with learning disabilities including the right of all children to learn to read
2. Understand existing mechanisms how parents can influence what is happening in classrooms
3. Increase ability to competently navigate the educational system
4. Effectively communicate with school/teachers
5. Better support their children to succeed in school

To achieve the second objective, we plan a panel on Parent-School Collaboration - What are the Existing Mechanisms with panelists representing SEAC, PIC, teachers, and educational assistants.

We would appreciate it very much if SEAC could identify a volunteer to join the panel.

Epilepsy South Easter Ontario

Monthly Group Meeting

Topic: Reducing Stress & Enhancing Well-being with Yoga

When: Wednesday February 26, 2020 - @6:30-8:00pm

Where: Ongwanada - (Board Rm.) 191 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston ON

Come join us to hear from Kathleen Pratt discussing stress reduction & enhancing well-being with yoga. This talk will include a demonstration of simple and gentle movement sitting in a chair and breathing exercises that most everyone can do.

"Research shows that yoga is effective in reducing stress and its effects on the body and mind. Kathleen Pratt is a social worker and trauma-sensitive yoga teacher who loves bringing yoga to absolute beginners."

Check out the link below to start thinking about your questions!-

<https://www.kathleenpratt.ca/about->

<https://www.facebook.com/kathleenprattmswrsw>

Hope to see you there!

Refreshments will be provided.

If you require transportation, please contact eleslie@epilepsyresource.org.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Emilia at 613-542-6222 or eleslie@epilepsyresource.org.

Speaker Bio

This month's speaker will be Kathleen Pratt, MSW, RSW:

About the Speaker:

"Kathleen Pratt is a Registered Social Worker and Certified Yoga Teacher in private practice in Kingston. She offers trauma-sensitive yoga for individuals, couples and groups with a specialty in yoga for grief and yoga for pelvic health.

<https://www.kathleenpratt.ca/> "